

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (~~c~~ancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 8, 12, and 19 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image recording apparatus, comprising:
a coding/decoding part performing coding and decoding a given signal in one of a plurality of coding/decoding modes of different bit rates;
a recording medium coupled with said coding/decoding part; and
a control part setting a predetermined bit rate to be applied by said coding/decoding part in case the given signal is output after being coded and decoded by said coding/decoding part without storage thereof in said recording medium, wherein
the image recording apparatus functions in at least two modes, a first mode in which the given signal is recorded/reproduced on the recording medium, and a second mode in which the given signal is not recorded/reproduced on the recording medium but is output, and
switching between the first mode and the second mode is determined by a remote controller,
wherein the predetermined bit rate is equal to or larger than a bit rate determined by the control part based on a remaining capacity of the recording medium in the first mode.

2. (ORIGINAL) The image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predetermined bit rate is that on such a mode of the plurality of coding/decoding modes as to provide the highest image quality.

3. (ORIGINAL) The image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the predetermined bit rate is further higher than that on such a mode of the plurality of coding/decoding modes as to provide the highest image quality.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An image recording apparatus, comprising:
a coding/decoding part performing coding and decoding a given signal in one of a

plurality of coding/decoding modes of different bit rates;

a recording medium coupled with said coding/decoding part; and

a control part automatically setting a bit rate corresponding to one of the plurality of coding/decoding modes to be applied by said coding/decoding part according to at least a remaining storage capacity A (bytes) of said recording medium.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein:

the control part sets the bit rate further depending on a time T (seconds) of recording reserved, a maximum available recording bit rate R_{max} (bps), and a minimum available recording bit rate R_{min} (bps), and

said control part determines the bit rate R (bps) by which the recording is performed to satisfy the following formula:

$$T \times R/8 \leq A$$

wherein, $R = R_{\max}$ when $R > R_{\max}$; and

$R = R_{\min}$ when $R < R_{\min}$.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein

said control part sets a lower bit rate by which the recording is performed when the remaining storage capacity A is less than a predetermined value.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein:

the control part sets the bit rate further depending on a time T (seconds) of recording reserved and a minimum available recording bit rate R_{min} (bps), and

said control part determines the bit rate R (bps) by which the recording is performed to satisfy the following formula:

$$T \times R/8 \leq A$$

wherein $R = R_{\min}$ when $R < R_{\min}$.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An image recording apparatus, comprising:

a coding/decoding part performing coding and decoding a given signal in one of a plurality of coding/decoding modes of different bit rates;

a recording medium coupled with said coding/decoding part; and

a control part causing an input image signal to be automatically recorded into said recording medium even if no instructions for recording the input image signal is given, and causing the image signal thus recorded into the recording medium to be accessible when predetermined instructions concerning the image signal is given, wherein

the image recording apparatus functions in at least two modes, a first mode in which the given signal is recorded/reproduced on the recording medium, and a second mode in which the given signal is not recorded/reproduced on the recording medium but is output, and

switching between the first mode and the second mode is determined by a remote controller, wherein a bit rate of the second mode is equal to or larger than a bit rate determined by the control part based on a remaining capacity of the recording medium in the first mode.

9. (ORIGINAL) The image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said control part does not perform the automatic recording of the image signal when the remaining storage capacity of the recording medium is less than a predetermined value.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said control part causes the image signal to be automatically recorded into a file, which a user cannot access, of the recording medium.

11. (ORIGINAL) The image recording apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein control information concerning the image signal is divided and recorded into the recording medium in a directory area thereof and also an area thereof in which the image signal is stored separately.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A semiconductor device, comprising:
a coding/decoding circuit performing coding and decoding a given signal in one of a plurality of coding/decoding modes of different bit rates; and
a control circuit setting a predetermined bit rate to be applied by said coding/decoding circuit in case the given signal is output after being coded and decoded by said coding/decoding part without storage thereof in a predetermined recording medium, wherein
the semiconductor device functions in at least two modes, a first mode in which the given signal is recorded/reproduced on the recording medium, and a second mode in which the given signal is not recorded/reproduced on the recording medium but is output, and

switching between the first mode and the second mode is determined by a remote controller, wherein a bit rate of the second mode is equal to or larger than a bit rate determined by the control circuit based on a remaining capacity of the recording medium in the first mode.

13. (ORIGINAL) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the predetermined bit rate is that of such a mode of the plurality of coding/decoding modes as to provide the highest image quality.

14. (ORIGINAL) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the predetermined bit rate is further higher than that of such a mode of the plurality of coding/decoding modes as to provide the highest image quality.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A semiconductor device, comprising:
a coding/decoding circuit performing coding and decoding a given signal in one of a plurality of coding/decoding modes of different bit rates; and
a control circuit automatically setting a bit rate corresponding to one of the plurality of coding/decoding modes to be applied by said coding/decoding part according to at least a remaining storage capacity A (bytes) of a recording medium in which the given signal is recorded.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 15, wherein:

the control part sets the bit rate further depending on a time T (seconds) of recording reserved, a maximum available recording bit rate R_{max} (bps), and a minimum available recording bit rate R_{min} (bps), and

said control circuit determines the bit rate R (bps) by which the recording is performed to satisfy the following formula:

$$T \times R/8 \leq A$$

wherein, $R = R_{\max}$ when $R > R_{\max}$; and

$R = R_{\min}$ when $R < R_{\min}$.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 15, wherein:

said control circuit sets a lower bit rate by which the recording is performed when the

remaining storage capacity A is less than a predetermined value.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 15, wherein:

the control part sets the bit rate further depending on a time T (seconds) of recording reserved, and a minimum available recording bit rate Rmin (bps), and

said control circuit determines the bit rate R (bps) by which the recording is performed to satisfy the following formula:

$$T \times R/8 \leq A$$

wherein $R = R_{\min}$ when $R < R_{\min}$.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A semiconductor device, comprising:

a coding/decoding circuit performing coding and decoding a given signal in one of a plurality of coding/decoding modes of different bit rates; and

a control circuit causing an input image signal to be automatically recorded into a predetermined recording medium even if no instructions for recording the input image signal is given, and, causing the image signal thus recorded into the recording medium to be accessible when predetermined instructions concerning the image signal is given, wherein

the semiconductor device functions in at least two modes, a first mode in which the given signal is recorded/reproduced on the recording medium, and a second mode in which the given signal is not recorded/reproduced on the recording medium but is output, and

switching between the first mode and the second mode is determined by a remote controller, wherein a bit rate of the second mode is equal to or larger than a bit rate determined by the control circuit based on a remaining capacity of the recording medium in the first mode.

20. (ORIGINAL) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 19, wherein said control circuit does not perform the automatic recording of the image signal when the remaining storage capacity of the recording medium is less than a predetermined value.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 19, wherein said control circuit causes the image signal to be automatically recorded into a file, which a user cannot access, of the recording medium.

22. (ORIGINAL) The semiconductor device as claimed in claim 19, wherein control information concerning the image signal is divided and recorded into the recording medium in a directory area thereof and an area thereof in which the image signal is stored separately.

23. (NEW) An image recording apparatus, performing coding and decoding of an input signal optionally recording the signal, comprising:

a control part automatically setting a bit rate corresponding to one of a plurality of coding/decoding modes according to at least an available storage capacity A (bytes), wherein in at least one coding/decoding mode among the plurality of coding/decoding modes, the recording signal is recorded, and in at least one coding/decoding mode among the plurality of coding/decoding modes the signal is not recorded, a bit rate of the at least one coding/decoding mode in which the signal is not recorded being equal to or smaller than a rate determined according to the available storage capacity.